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ACTION ARA-15

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCS-06 HA-05 CA-01 H-02 L-03
CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-02 ICA-20 /065 W
-----129038 150634Z /11

R 141944Z NOV 78
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8263

UNCLAS BUENOS AIRES 9035

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SHUM,AR,CASC
SUBJECT: EMBASSY'S REQUEST TO GOA FOR INVESTIGATION INTO ACTION
TAKEN AGAINST JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES

REF: BA-9007

1. PURSUANT TO REFTTEL, EMBASSY SENT THE FOLL NOTE TO
THE ARGENTINE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN RELATIONS AND WORSHIP
TODAY, NOV 14:

"THE EMBASSY OF THE U.S. OF AMERICA PRESENTS ITS
COMPLIMENTS TO THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND WORSHIP
OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARGENTINA AND HAS THE HONOR TO REFER
TO THE MINISTRY THE FOLLOWING MATTER.
YESTERDAY MORNING, NOV 13, 1978, A GROUP OF
POLICE OFFICIALS ENTERED THE LOCAL HEADQUARTERS OF THE
JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES, LOCATED AT HONDURAS 5646 IN THE
FEDERAL CAPITAL, AND REPORTEDLY SEIZED OVER 30,000 RELIGIOUS
BOOKS BELONGING TO A U.S. COPORATION, THE
WATCHTOWER BIBLE AND TRACT SOCIETY OF NEW YORK, INC., WHICH
IS LOCATED AT 117 ADAMS STREET, BROOKLYN, NEW YORK 11201.
IT HAS BEEN REPORTED TO THIS EMBASSY THAT SUCH
ACTION WAS CARRIED OUT UNDER ORDERS FROM THE MINISTRY
OF THE INTERIOR. HOWEVER, THE POLICE OFFICIALS REFUSED
TO SHOW AN ORDER FOR THE SEIZURE OR LEAVE A RECEIPT
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FOR THE BOOKS TAKEN.
IF THE REPORT RECEIVED BY THIS EMBASSY IS CORRECT,

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ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)
U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS
Margaret P. Grafeld, Director
☒ Release ☐ Excise ☐ Deny
Exemption(s):
Declassify: ☐ In Part ☐ In Full
☐ Classify as ☐ Extend as ☐ Downgrade to
Date _____ Declassify on _____ Reason _____

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THE AFOREMENTIONED SEIZURE WOULD SEEM TO RAISE A QUESTION OF THE CONFISCATION OF PROPERTY IN AN ILLEGAL MANNER. CONSEQUENTLY, THE EMBASSY OF THE U.S. OF AMERICA WISHES TO REQUEST AN IMMEDIATE INVESTIGATION AND EXPLANATION FOR THE REPORTED SEIZURE, AND TO REQUEST THAT NO ACTION BE TAKEN TO DESTROY OR DAMAGE THE BOOKS REPORTEDLY CONFISCATED. THE EMBASSY OF THE U.S. OF AMERICA TAKES THIS OPPORTUNITY TO REITERATE TO THE MINISTRY THE ASSURANCES OF ITS HIGHEST CONSIDERATION."
CASTRO

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